

JAMES CITY COUNTY OUTSTANDING SPECIMEN TREE OPTION GUIDELINES

The purpose of the Outstanding Specimen Tree Option is to identify, maintain, and protect designated outstanding specimen trees located within the county. It is the intent of the option to increase public awareness of specimen trees located in the county as well as to provide reasonable assurance that James City County's tree heritage will continue for future generations. The intent of this option is not to be regulatory or punitive but rather to heighten public consciousness by informing and educating the public of the benefits that specimen trees provide. The option is intended to be a means to preserve specimen trees during development of private or public property by giving developers an incentive for doing so. The incentive will allow developers by ordinance to preserve outstanding specimen trees that may be located in areas that are not required to be preserved in exchange for 5 tree credits that can be counted towards satisfying tree credit requirements anywhere else on site.

OUTSTANDING SPECIMEN TREE OPTION GOALS:

The James City County Outstanding Specimen Tree Option has three major goals:

- To establish a process of designating and protecting outstanding specimen trees located on either public or private property.
- To encourage proper maintenance, care and protection of designated trees.
- To give developers an incentive to preserve outstanding specimen trees on development sites.

CRITERIA FOR REQUESTING OUTSTANDING SPECIMEN TREE DESIGNATION:

Any tree within the boundaries of the James City County that meets the following criteria as described below can be considered for an outstanding specimen tree designation with an Outstanding Specimen Tree Designation Request form.

1. Must be architecturally sound, true to its genetic form, and not topped or poorly pruned.
2. Be of exceptionally mature size and form, in healthy condition, free of disease, insect infestation, and storm damage.
3. Must be visible from publicly accessible location(s).

In addition to meeting the three criteria above, any tree being considered for nomination as a specimen tree must meet at least one of the following descriptions:

1. Outstanding Specimen Tree – Notable by virtue of its outstanding size and quality for its particular species as determined by the Planning Director or his designee.
2. Heritage Tree – Notable for its historic or cultural significance as determined by the Planning Director or his designee.

